

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's Requirement for Election of Species is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The Examiner asserts on page 2 of the Office Action that species I through VIII, directed to various autoimmune diseases, are independent and distinct inventions which are novel and unobvious over each other. The Patent Office practice as set forth in the MPEP encourages the examination of the entire application where such search and examination can be made without serious burden even if the application may include claims to distinct or independent inventions. In the present case, Applicants submit that such examination does not impose serious burden upon the Examiner (see below). Accordingly, in the interest of the efficient advancement of prosecution, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner should reconsider and withdraw the requirement.

The Examiner continues that in view of the extremely large number of species encompassed by claims 1-19, an undue burden of search is placed on the Examiner to examine the species in a single application. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that the suppression of autoimmune disease by oral administration routes, for any autoimmune disease, would be found in the same body of literature. There would most certainly be cross citations to similar

experimentation in this field. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that although there may be numerous species encompassed in the claims, that an undue burden of search would not be placed on the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the election requirement.

Applicants note here that the required notification by the Examiner of the Applicants' right to claim additional species in the event that a generic claim thereto is found to be allowable in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a), has not been set forth by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner make clear, for the record, this entitlement.

Early favorable notice is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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